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Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:36 AM

To: Senator - Anderson, Jim; Representative - Greear, Mike

Cc: Senator - Rothfuss, Chris; LSO

Subject: Joint Minerals Meeting Thursday May 16, 2019 Agenda Item 8- NEPA comment

Joint Minerals, Business & Economic Development Interim Committee

RE: NEPA Local Primacy

Dear Members of the Committee,

I would like to thank the members of the committee for entertaining the large complex issues that may impact Wyoming and frankly all American citizens. The issue to discuss local control of NEPA may result in State and Federal legislation to change the management of Federal public lands. Over the years I have watched very good legislation that was founded on good principles, be eroded due to arguments that occur through years of litigating at the margins and not because the principles that brought these laws about have changed. That idea is not new even for NEPA as America has long had an interest in expediency when it comes to managing our World. These ideas come at us naturally due to our long "superiority" over other animals as well from the cultural idea of "Dominion".

Wyoming's dominate party and groups appear to believe that idea that man's Dominion is a one where war must be waged against nature for man to succeed. The false idea that war must be waged has a long foundation in Wyoming's Custom and Culture as the motto emblazoned on the Engineering Building at the University of Wyoming reads – "Strive on for the Control of Nature is Won – Not Given". Over the years the belief that we should control nature instead of work with it has been disproven time after time, but man is a stubborn and forgetful beast. It is also evident man has ignored certain concepts of Dominion as the God of Abraham implored man to ensure that all species be fruitful and multiply. Based on the recent studies, including the Migration Initiative as well as the recent news that 1 Million species are under threat, Wyoming America and the World are continuing to ignore the importance of biodiversity and maintaining America's wild spaces.

In the end NEPA was designed to balance the ideas of Dominion in dealing with our natural world and we really have not settled which way the balance should

be weighed; in Man's favor or in the favor of our natural world whose voice is expressed through the data we collect and how we talk about it. That brings us to this meeting and the push for local control of the NEPA process.

Wyoming is blessed to be at the heart of this discussion, which is why the Joint Committee is discussing the issue; however, tipping the balance away from people that can look at the management of Federal Public Lands objectively is one of folly. Based on the way Wyoming was founded and the way electoral politics have over weighted the representative legislative argument toward economic or man's interest over the natural world even at increased taxpayer expense, has rendered local control biased, instead of balanced. The American people have already blessed Wyoming with Federal Public lands and provided great deals for those near those public lands, especially for ranching, energy and public water access, so why are we arguing for more deals, when those decisions will degrade our public lands a great money maker for Wyoming?

I know those will argue that Wyoming's Custom and Culture are based on ranching, energy and agriculture, but those activities are subsidized by our tax dollars. If we allowed things to return to a wild nature, then less money will be spent to receive a natural bounty of public lands, which includes tourism revenue to clean water. Wyoming needs read market signals and recognize that working with nature instead of controlling it will save tax money and bring in more revenue than arguing for more exploitation from local communities. If we in Wyoming have discussions about all these interconnected issues instead of arguing at the margins, our State and Country will be better for it, instead of divided. I am firmly against local primacy for NEPA, but I am not opposed to having discussions that accommodate all interests.

Thanks again,

Greg Hunter
Laramie Wyoming